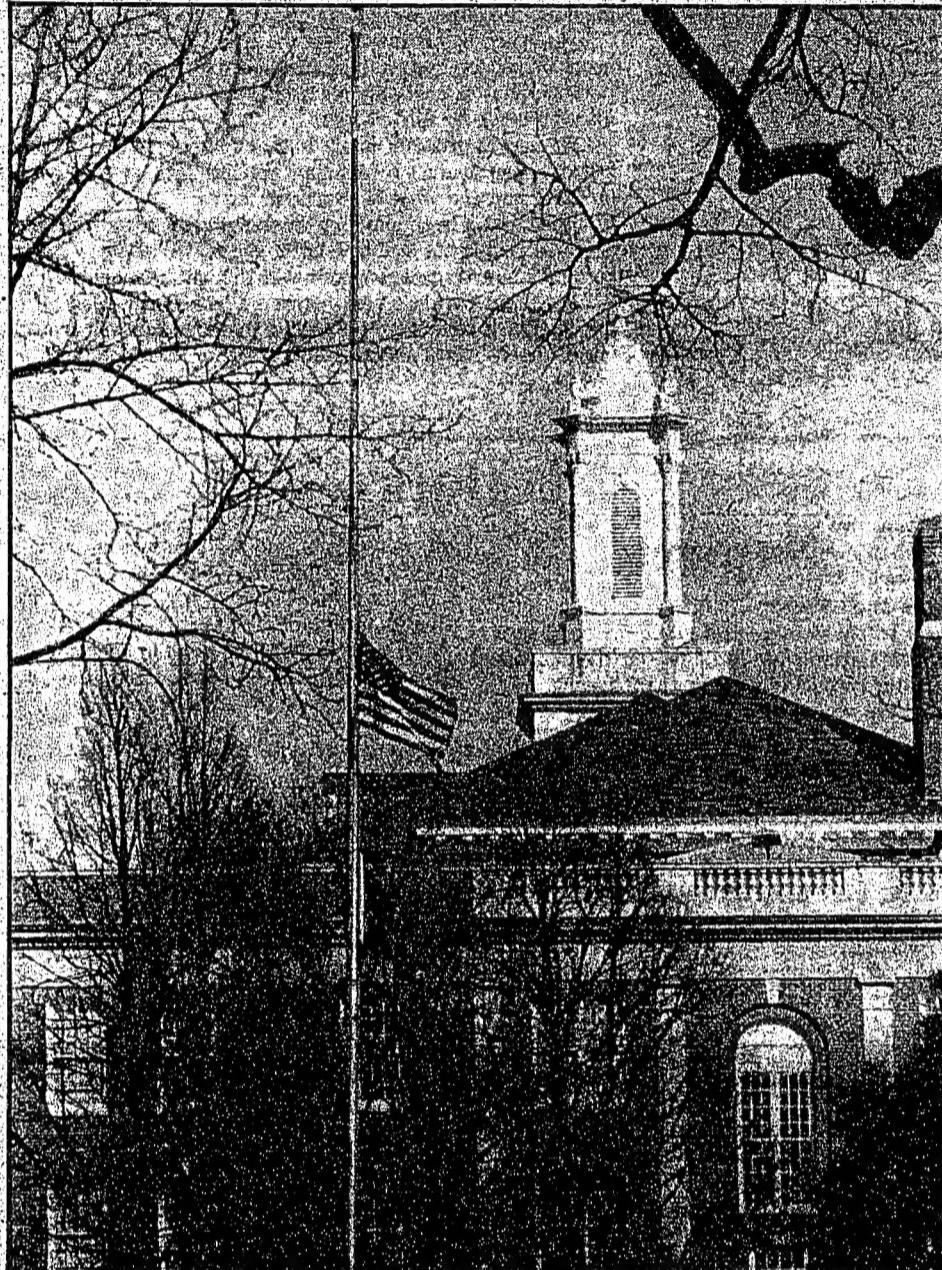


The Gateway



Remembering the mayor . . .

Omaha mourns the death of Mayor Bernie Simon, who died April 14 after a year-long bout with cancer. Flags on campus and around the state flew at half-mast in remembrance of Simon.

— Eric Lindwall

Soviet says troops will exit Afghanistan this year

By STEVE CHASE
Senior Reporter

The Soviet Union will pull all of its troops out of Afghanistan by the end of this year, said Yuri V. Gankovsky, head of the Afghan section of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow during an April 14 press conference at UNO.

He said the Soviet Union would not return to the Middle-Eastern country, and the Marxist-controlled government in Afghanistan should be able to support itself without aid from Moscow.

"All we want to do is to leave the Afghan people in peace," Gankovsky said.

In an interview April 16, the professor said the agreement did not evolve because the Soviets were facing problems the United States did in its conflict during the Vietnam intervention.

"It is very difficult to compare the situation with the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and the situation of the United States in Vietnam," Gankovsky said.

"There are, as I remember, about 17,000 kilometers between the United States and Vietnam," he said. "The Soviet Union and Afghanistan share about two-and-a-half thousand kilometers of common border," he said.

"People of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan share much of the same culture, share economical and political trade," he said. "So for us, Afghanistan is our neighbor."

The professor was at UNO for four days at the request of Tom Gouttierre, dean of International Studies and Programs. Gankovsky said the last time he was in Afghanistan was two years ago to attend a conference at Kabul University.

As a professor of history, he said most of Afghanistan's modern history has been scarred by turmoil and civil war.

Soldiers were called into Afghanistan in 1979 at the request of the Marxist government to help crush a civil war that started in 1978, he said.

"We had only one goal (when the Soviet Union invaded Af-

ghanistan), and that was to protect the Kabul government," Gankovsky said.

There were some limited military goals, such as protecting the main administrative centers and two or three economic centers because Afghanistan is a very poor country.

"So with securing these two or three economic centers and two or three military bases, the aims that we set out to achieve

are fulfilled," Gankovsky said.

He is hopeful the agreement signed between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and Pakistan will result in better relationships between the USSR and the United States.

"The realization for our two countries to fulfill the Geneva agreement will aid in the settlement of other regional problems," he said.

Faculty leader fears tenure changes

By TIM TRUDELL
Senior Reporter

Faculty members should be concerned with how a tenure proposal at the Med Center could affect UNO professors in the future, said Faculty Senate President Kermut Peters.

The Board of Regents is considering a program which will allow the Med Center's administration to hire non-tenured faculty under a five-year renewable contract. Current faculty members would not be affected, but the program would apply to professors hired in the future, Peters said at Wednesday's Faculty Senate meeting.

The regents have said the program would apply only to the Med Center; however, there is concern about it being applied to UNO at a later date.

"We are more concerned about the implications of making that part of the bylaws of university policy in the future," Peters said. "We hope that doesn't happen."

A vote on the proposal is expected at the May 6 meeting in Lincoln, he said.

In other action, the senate:

● Approved Dr. Roy McTarnaghan of Tallahassee, Fla.,

as the replacement for Dr. James Young to the Chancellor Review Commission. McTarnaghan is the chief academic officer for the Florida System of Higher Education. Young withdrew because of an illness in his family, Peters said.

● Approved a motion to hold senate leadership elections during the May 12 meeting.

● Approved a resolution urging faculty members to attend the Faculty College at Boys Town May 15 to 17. The conference will consist of faculty members from around the state with a commitment to improving education, the resolution said.

● Approved the nominations of the following people for a faculty-wide election to fill two tenured and two non-tenured, three-year terms on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee:

William Callahan, College of Education (tenured).

William Clute, College of Arts and Sciences (tenured).

Michael McGrath, CPACS (tenured).

William Carter, Library (non-tenured).

Robert Hautala, College of Education (non-tenured).

Marshall Prisbell, College of Arts and Sciences (non-tenured).

Tuesday, April 19, 1988

Vol. 87, No. 55

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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During closed session

Student Senate rejects BLAC debate proposal

By TIM TRUDELL
Senior Reporter

The UNO Student Senate rejected a proposal by Black Liberators for Action on Campus (BLAC) to debate the senate's decision not to support a required black studies course.

During a closed session Thursday night, senators were "encouraged not to engage in any bantering that would not be beneficial," said Student Sen. Greg Clark. Senators should "avoid petty little differences that might come about" because of the decision, he added.

After the meeting, Clark said the senate's decision to hold a closed session to discuss the debate "might cause criticism similar to that voiced after the senate's secret vote on the black studies resolution which was defeated 12-4 March 31.

"However, no decision was made during the closed session," Clark said. "The speaker of the senate (Tim Kerrigan) will send BLAC a letter explaining why we can't debate them."

Student President/Regent Joe Kerrigan said it didn't matter how the senators chose to respond to the proposal. "They're going to criticize us anyway," he said.

The nature of the senate is not to advocate certain positions publicly, he said. "We are not a group that is supposed to take a stand," Kerrigan said. "We should have a variety of opinions."

In other action Thursday night, Kerrigan told senators they have their work cut out for them next year when the legislature meets because of this year's improvements in faculty and staff salaries and research grants.

"We can't sit on our laurels," he said. "We'll have to work real hard when the legislature goes back into session. We're not going to be the university that's been forgotten for 12 years."

During its meeting, the senate approved a change to Senate Resolution 85/86-30, which would allow Budget Committee members to

suspend some budget rules during its meetings. The senate previously was the only body allowed to suspend rules, said Sen. Mike Gaebel, chairman of the Budget Committee.

The amendment attached to the resolution changed the authority for allowing rules suspensions from the committee chairman to the committee as a whole. The amendment insures that "power doesn't stay in one hand," Sen. Mary Reynolds said.

The senate also passed the Native American Students Association's constitution for the second time. The senate passed the constitution during its March 31 meeting, but re-examined it because there was a question about its non-discriminatory clause, Kerrigan said.

Oversight Committee Chairperson Cheryl Carter announced an investigation into Student Senate Speaker Tim Kerrigan's actions at an unofficial January 28 meeting of the senate were appropriate. Carter said Kerrigan was justified in letting two non-senators into the meeting while barring reporters because roll had not been taken and the meeting was not an official one.

Outgoing Executive Treasurer Greg Gunderson told senators \$6,000 remained from the old Nebraska State Student Association lobbying fund which will be transferred to the senate's contingency fund. There is a \$5,000 surplus in the contingency fund, he added.

The last student fees payment for the Child Care Center was recently made severing ties with the center, Gunderson said.

The senate approved the following appointments, which took effect yesterday:

● Clark as the senate's chief administrative officer. He replaced Bryan Howell, who will graduate next month.

● Carter as the senate's executive treasurer. She replaced Gunderson, who will also graduate.

See Senate on 3

"We had only one goal (when the Soviet Union invaded Af-

Comment

Simon leaves Omaha with legacy of commitment

Bernie Simon was a man who defined political leadership. He strived in his short time in office to get things done such as the ConAgra project and increasing the prestige of the city. But his time as mayor seemed to transcend that of just a mere political leader. Simon was one of those people who truly loved Omaha.

Most people in politics seem to just show up at some function, rattle off a speech or have their pictures taken and then go back to their little offices to hide from constituents.

Simon did the complete opposite. He tackled each public meeting and function with great enthusiasm and gusto.

One of the best examples was the day he visited Dundee Elementary School.

I've worked at Dundee for about two years, and I've seen many important people come and go. But Simon's visit was probably the most memorable.

He didn't give a speech or make any big promises. He just walked from classroom to classroom talking to teachers and kids while his entourage tried to keep up with him.

His perseverance and dedication were also reflected in his family life. Although Simon never attended college, he made sure his children had a college education.

His children went to school at UNO. His son, Todd, was editor of the *Gateway* in the fall of 1971, and Todd's soon-to-be-wife, Geri Teteak, was the editor in the summer of 1972.

Steve Chase

Gateway Columnist

Simon's dedication to UNO was also apparent in his support of long-range plans for the performing arts facilities.

Simon shouldn't be remembered just for his short term as mayor. He spent five years as a representative of District 7, my district, before becoming mayor in 1987.

Between 1981 and 1987, I noticed Simon's participation in city government and how it affected my neighborhood; condi-

tions of streets had improved and businesses started to spring up.

His determination resulted in a sense of pride in my district which still exists today. I like to think that's what he had in mind for the city.

Even when he became mayor, he didn't forget the neighborhood. He had the pastor, the Rev. William Fitzgerald of St. James Catholic Church, give a short talk and benediction at the council meeting when he was elected.

"We are all proud of him," Father Fitz (as he is sometimes called) said of Simon's recent appointment. "But we were always proud of him and what he has done for us."

Although it's been almost a week since the mayor has died, it seems people are still in a bit of shock. We all knew he was battling a fatal disease, but we never thought it would beat him.

I hope that Omaha's next mayor will constantly keep Bernie Simon's spirit alive in all that he or she does. He was probably one of Omaha's best mayors, and a guide for what politics should be.

Candidates leave voters with sour taste in mouths

No wonder it's hard to get excited about the election.

Which one? It doesn't seem to matter. Earlier this year, we watched as the seven Democratic dwarfs attempted to vie for the vote in Iowa. Now former Bush-buster Bob Dole has sold out to campaign for vice president. Does anybody really believe in anything anymore?

I guess that's the question I asked myself while exiting the Performing Arts Center

John Rood
Gateway Columnist

following Wednesday night's 2nd District Republican debate.

After sitting there for more than an hour, I really knew no more about the candidates than when I walked in: Chris Abboud — a state senator who flunked the bar three times, Jerry Schenken — a doctor who has the backing and money to run the most expensive campaign, Ally Milder — a lady lawyer who interned in Washington and Carl Jennings — a small businessman who trails the other three in the polls.

The Democratic debate two weeks ago

minus Cece Zorinsky, wasn't any better. All of the candidates stood up to espouse the same beliefs: reduce the deficit, balance the budget, cure the state's agricultural woes and support Dave or Hal in the senate.

Problem is, no one wanted to say how they'd accomplish these wonderful goals. Just for once, it'd be nice to have a candidate spell out what he/she was going to do if elected. The only problem is, the candidates don't know any better than we do.

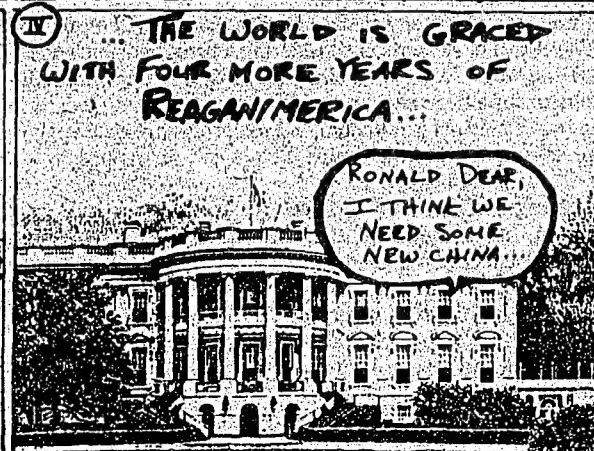
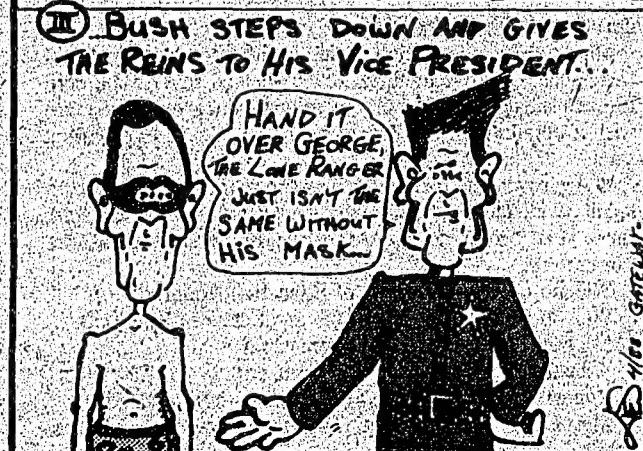
We live in a country of politicians who are so "professional" nothing gets done. Before making a decision, candidates consider crossing party lines, political action committees and corporate benefactors. After considering the ramifications, they take the easy way out. They simply don't make a decision at all.

Whether it's the presidency or a congressional seat right here in River City, voters are thirsty for candidates who will face the issues.

What they get is buttermilk.

Each of the congressional candidates promises that, if elected, he/she would do more than his/her counterparts from other states. How can a politician hope to be more than one out of 435 when he/she can't be more than one out of four?

A POLITICAL NIGHTMARE THAT COULD BECOME AN EVEN MORE FRIGHTENING REALITY.



Letters

No regrets

To the editor:

In response to a letter citing my comments to the *Gateway* as "attacks" on the Student Senate, I would like to say the following:

I have no reason to regret nor deny any of my remarks. I respect the *Gateway* for its accuracy in reporting.

With the exception of CAO Bryan Howell and Sen. Marilou Ervin, members of the senate failed to research and acquire knowledge on the topic of black studies and the G.E.C. Proposal and therefore could not apply any background for their votes. Again, the senate did not vote intelligently.

As for my comment which states that the students are very "dumb culturally and politically," it's a strong one, but in my opinion, it's true.

The student population at UNO has allowed itself to be molded into a realm of apathy. While our campus has sponsored some of the best in cultural entertainment and hosted speakers of the political persuasion, the past few years have greatly reflected little if any, change from the 50s "era of indifference."

More importantly, I am concerned that UNO students-at-large are not inquisitive enough to attend a Student Senate meeting and provide input.

As for my comment stating that some members of the senate are "racist and don't even know it," racism is a complex issue. Like a friend once said, it's like trying to describe God. You can feel it, but you can't show it in tangible form. It is based upon ignorance and intolerance.

for a racial group, but becomes institutionalized when those possessing power allow their conscious and subconscious racist perceptions to affect their authoritative acts.

The weak arguments given in opposition to a black studies course requirement reeked of strong intolerance for anything outside of the "status quo" and the realm of comfort which it provides for white Americans.

It appears that many need to do some soul-searching. One can only hope that UNO students, faculty and staff have the guts to make conscious efforts in this endeavor.

Pamela Wren
UNO student

Article a 'farce'

To the editor:

The recent *Gateway* article "Flying brick gauges success for engineering major" is a farce. Reporter Steve Chase's report lacks any degree of accuracy. His interwoven sentences make the information come out of context. For example, Chase states that the catapult was completed as a requirement for an EET student's senior thesis. In fact, the catapult was simply a requirement for a three-credit hour class. If all of Chase's articles are as inaccurate as this one, he should send a resume to the *National Enquirer*.

James P. Nissen
Chairman, student chapter of Institute of Electronics Electrical Engineers

Editor's note: Chase inaccurately reported that the project was a part of a senior thesis.

The Gateway

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Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the UNO students, faculty, or staff; or those of the NU central administration and Board of Regents.

Letters to the editor must be signed, but those with nom de plume may be accepted. All letters should include appropriate identification, address, and telephone number. (Address and telephone number will not be published.) Letters critical of individuals must be signed by using the first and last name, or initials and last name. Preference is given to typed letters. All correspondence is subject to editing and available space.

Letters exceeding two (2) typewritten pages will be considered editorial commentary, and are subject to the above criteria.

Inquiries or complaints should be directed to the editor; advertising inquiries should be directed to the advertising manager. Copies of the Student Publications Committee Inquiry policy are available at The *Gateway* office.

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Greek Week

Tuesday

- Solicitations for the Heart Association by fraternities and sororities, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Phi Kappa Phi wheelchair obstacle course throughout campus, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- UNO's "Greek Guys" will paint the experimental solar buildings on the west side of campus.

Wednesday

- Chi Omega Jello-eating contest in the Donut Hole, 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate.
- Fraternity/sorority blood donation at the Bloodmobile.
- Annual Theta Chi Olympics for Greeks, spectators welcome.
- Annual Theta Chi Helen of Troy contest for outstanding sorority gal.

Thursday

- Sigma Phi Epsilon scavenger hunt from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Pep Bowl.
- Sigma Kappa volleyball tournament at 11 a.m. in the Pep Bowl.

Friday

- Alpha Xi Delta pie-throwing contest at 11 a.m. in the Pep Bowl; spectators are welcome to throw pies at their favorite (least favorite) Alpha Xi Delta.
- Pi Kappa Alpha arm wrestling contest at noon in the Donut Hole.
- Annual Greek Banquet dinner and dance at 6:30 p.m. at Erin Court, 4714 N. 120th Street. Awards will be given out: the Sports Cup, Traveling Scholarship trophies, Highest Pledge and Active GPA trophies, the Chancellor's Award and the Outstanding Active and Pledge of the Year for sororities and fraternities.

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GOP candidate issues challenge

By TIM KALDAHL
Staff Reporter

Republican congressional candidate Ally Milder re-issued a challenge to debate her three opponents in other counties of the state during a debate at UNO Wednesday.

The Omaha League of Women Voters sponsored the debate held in the Strauss Performing Arts Center.

The other three 2nd District candidates, State Sen. Chris Abboud, Dr. Jerry Schenken and Carl Jennings, agreed more debates would help the election process but said time left before the May 10 primary is running short.

Finding a neutral sponsor was another problem mentioned by Schenken. Abboud said as long as debates are sponsored by an impartial party, he would be willing to participate.

During the debate, Abboud was questioned about his attempts to pass the state bar exam. He failed the test three times before passing it on his fourth attempt in July 1984.

Abboud said his duties as a senator kept him from studying properly for the test. Commitment to the people he represents is his first priority, he said.

"That responsibility was, first and foremost, to serve in the Nebraska Legislature," he said. "The time that I spent serving in the Nebraska Legislature did take away from my studies."

Questions to Schenken, a medical doctor, and Jennings, a Navy veteran, related to their careers. Bill Kelly, political reporter for WOWT-TV; Carol Bryce, president of the League of Women Voters; and Warren Francke, UNO professor of communications, made up the panel.

More money in health research would be an important issue to him in Congress, Schenken said.

"I think the government should have a major role in disease research," he said. "Research in one will help research in another."

Schenken said he opposes abortion and government funding

of abortions, and an amendment to the Constitution is not a solution.

"I would look for a legislative remedy rather than a constitutional remedy," he said. Milder said she also wanted to make abortion illegal.

"The decision to me is to err on the side of life," she said. Milder spent six years as a legislative aide to Sen. Charles Gravelley, R-Iowa.

Francke asked Jennings about his position on Col. Oliver North, a key player in the Iran-contra hearings last summer.

"If Oliver North has made a mistake, so be it," Jennings said. He went on to explain that operations such as the diversion of money for hostages "happens every day" in government. "I would stand behind him (North) wherever he wants to go."

Despite being a Navy veteran, Jennings said the government could trim \$30 million from the Navy's budget to cut corners on the national budget.

"We (the military) need to take a back seat for a few years," he said. Jennings also said he supports America's role in the Persian Gulf.

Moderator Anne Binhammer asked each candidate what his role would be in Congress as a freshman representative.

Abboud, Schenken and Milder said deficit reduction would be the number one concern.

Encouraging small business and getting tough on terrorism are two issues Jennings wants to address, he said.

Senate from page 1

- Carolyn Mouttet as chief justice of the Student Court. She replaced Ray Kyle, who will graduate.
- Brad Lynch as director of the Disabled Students Agency.
- Bill Herndon as United Minority Students director.
- Brian Johnson as director of the Student Programming Organization. Johnson will serve his second term as SPO director.

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AN EVENING IN THE LIFE

By TIM McMAHAN
Editor

Walking over a hill between the Durham Science Center and Annex 24 is Ron Wulff carrying a loaded Hefty full of someone else's garbage. As the sun sets behind the west horizon, the rays glint off of his muscular frame. For that one moment, Ron is a god.

It's just another day in the life of a UNO custodian. Ron's been working here for four years. "Yep, last Sunday was my anniversary. It seems like only yesterday that I scrubbed my first toilet bowl."

Ron is headed to Annex 24, the Public Administration building, where he'll clean and shine away every speck of dust and grime.

He doesn't look like your typical UNO custodian. He is like a character from a Greek myth. Short, compact, a sense of awareness is evident in the glint of his eye.

He said he gave up a life of wine, women and fast cars in order to dedicate his life to the detection and removal of trash, grime and germs in the buildings and offices on the west end of campus.

"Yeah, it's a rough life, but look around you. This is my building. It reflects the hard work and dedication of a typical UNO custodian," Ron says, polishing the banister leading up to the professors' offices. No fingerprint goes unnoticed.

He is in the middle of his eight-hour shift. Ron spent the early part of his evening cleaning Annex 27. After he finishes vacuuming the carpet and locking up, he's off to 24.

Suddenly, his pager erupts in a series of squeals. A look of terror enters the already tired expression on his face.

"I gotta call dispatch. Another emergency must have arisen," he says.

On the phone he sounds confident, cocky.

"Yes sir, I'll get right over there," he says, slamming down the phone.

"It looks like a toilet overflow over in CBA. Someone's gotta clean up that mess, and his name is me," Ron says.

We're off in a hurry. If Ron delays, someone could get hurt.

On our way over, we talk of many things. Ron gives me his philosophy on the life of a custodian.

"There's a stigma that goes along with this work that this is all you can do. That's just not the case. But after people get to know you, their attitude changes. You're more than just a dumb janitor."

Ron stops to pick up a discarded Gateway that litters the walk in front of the Library.

"You're someone even the most highly educated can respect."

I ask him about his relations with the people in his buildings.



Tim McMahan

Ron pauses for a moment of reflection, "We are the unsung heroes."

"We're all here to do a job from the chancellor on down. It takes more than just one ant to build an ant hill. C-line employees, I feel, are the heart and soul of this university. We are the unsung heroes."

After the mess has been mopped up and all equipment put away, we take off back to the west end of campus.

Annex 24, the dean of CPACS' office, is a real mess tonight. Scraps of paper and food litter the carpet and hide under desks and chairs.

Ron makes his way up to third floor. He always starts his chores on the top floor and works his way out of the building. Still hard at work is Senior Community Service Associate Chuck Powell. Ron does his best not to disturb him. Powell is appreciative.

"Ron is a nice guy, he's a humanitarian, he's the last of the

good guys. I love him like a son," Powell said.

By this time, I'm having a hard time keeping up with Ron. The pace is killing me, and we both know it. Ron groans as he finishes the annex.

"Just one more left," he says, rubbing his aching back, a toilet bowl brush in one hand.

We finish off the evening in Annex 26, the home of the Gateway. It's a deadline night, and editors are busy working.

"Are you going to be here until 11:30?" he asks.

"It looks like we'll be here long past that," says Feature Editor Dan Swiatek.

"Good, now I don't have to clean your building," says Ron slyly. Even to the end, Ron proves his dedication by emptying Dan's ashtray.

A fitting ending to a harrowing evening of the world's hardest profession. Custodial work.

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The Omaha Community Playhouse is one of a very few establishments that fits the foregoing definition.

This past week I have had the pleasure of attending both *The Lion in Winter* (Playhouse main stage) and *The Creation & Other Mysteries* (Fonda-McGuire stage), and I heartily recommend both productions.

You will be pleasantly surprised at how much you laugh during *The Lion in Winter*. Set in the palace of Henry II at Christmas, 1183, the script simplifies the political maneuvering of the historical time in order to focus on the much more personal aspects of family disunity, sibling rivalry, mid-life crisis and absentee parenting.

Even though the language of the 12th century would not have included "Come again?" (King Henry gets this one in the first half) you accept the anachronism because you are caught up in the keen wit of the verbal jousting and in the universal reality of family struggle.

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You are also caught up in seven of the finest acting performances this stage has supported. Bill Hutson played Henry II, and Elaine Jabenis took up her foil opposite him in the role of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Henry's imprisoned wife. Their three sons, John, Geoffrey and Richard (Chad Polikov, Kevin J. Ehrhart and Brett D. Foster, respectively) often threatened to draw real swords, knives and daggers upon one another, with Geoffrey and Richard both attempting to cut a deal with Philip Capet (Kurt Hubler), the young king of France, in order to gain the other's inheritance.

The king's mistress, Alaise Capet (Theresa Cassaday) was sliced to ribbons between them.

The problem of who will be named heir to the English throne does have a solution in the end; however, I caution you to avoid placing bets. No matter which of the sons you side with, you'll be wrong.

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Sports

May runners rumble for 4 scores in 3rd scrimmage

By TERRY O'CONNOR
Sports Editor

The UNO offense put its most consistent foot forward last Saturday, said Maverick Coach Sandy Buda.

The Mavs rushed for 170 yards on 52 carries during the 80-minute workout, the shortest of the three spring scrimmages.

Junior quarterback Todd Sadler, the No. 1 quarterback, drove the first team 60 yards in 12 plays and scored on a 3-yard run to cap the first offensive series.

Sadler, who was held out of practice last week after suffering a mild concussion in the second scrimmage, also connected on 6 of 9 passes for 64 yards with one interception.

But the Mav backfield, expected to be strong with the return of leading rusher LaRon Henderson, carried the offensive load. Henderson scored twice on runs of 3 and 5 yards and fullback Jeff Podraza capped scoring with a 5-yard run on the last play of the scrimmage.

The Mavs' backfield depth has increased with the emergence of redshirt freshman Roy Napora, Buda said. Napora led all runners with 44 yards on 10 carries, Podraza had the top average (6.7) with 40 yards on six rushes and Henderson added 33 yards on nine carries.

Four Mavericks suffered injuries, but none are expected to miss the Red-White intrasquad game at 1:30 p.m. this Saturday at Caniglia Field. Halfback Abel Fernandez (32 yards, 5 carries), center Dan Brockhaus and wide receiver Rex Cammack all sustained injured ankles. Linebacker Joel Clausen suffered a pinched nerve and a possible mild concussion.

SCORING

Todd Sadler 3 run (John Bonacci kick)
Bonacci 33 field goal
Henderson 3 run (no kick)
Henderson 5 run (Bonacci kick)
Bonacci 32 field goal
Podraza 5 run (no kick)

RUSHING

Henderson 9-33, Podraza 6-40, Napora 10-44, Fernandez 5-32, Thielen 1-1, Murrell 7-19, Anderson 5-14, Sellon 4 (minus 13), Cech 2-3, Sadler 2-3, Grodon 1-0.

PASSING

Sadler 6-9-1 64, Sellon 4-10-0 32, Cech 1-7-1 3.

RECEIVING

Smith 1-27, Peterson 1-9, Heins 1-9, Gordon 1-4, Podraza 3-24, Napora 1-9, Cammack 1-17.



Eric Lindwall

UNO quarterback Todd Sadler has thrown the ball well this spring after recovering from a knee injury.



— Eric Lindwall

Paul Anderson, with ball, struggles for extra yardage against the UNO defense.

Skidding UNO readies for NCC opener

UNO lost five of six baseball games last week, but Coach Bob Gates said the Mavs are ready for their North Central Conference season to begin.

The 10-20 Mavs play a doubleheader against South Dakota State Thursday. SDSU won the NCC South Division last year and is expected to challenge for the playoffs again this season. The top two teams in the North and South Division reach the playoffs.

"We've been getting better every game," Gates said. "We could have won a couple more games this past week."

Mankato State came from behind in both games to sweep UNO by scores of 4-2 and 6-3 last Wednesday. After splitting a pair with North Dakota Friday, UNO dropped another twinbill by scores of 7-6 and 7-5 to North Dakota State.

UNO rallied for a run on Brian Flemming's RBI single to tie the first game in the bottom of the ninth against NDSU. The Bison scored twice in the 12th inning and choked off a Maverick rally after Clark Anderson's two-out RBI single to hold on. Gary Newton led UNO with three stolen bases and seven hits in nine at-bats.

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Phalen bat 'switch' charges UNO

By PAT RINN
Staff Reporter

Amy Phalen, a sophomore third baseman for UNO, turned in a solid hitting season from one side of the plate last year.

This season, after a tip from teammate Beth Wedige, Phalen is belting out hits from both sides. Her successful evolution into a switch hitter has helped UNO's 19-13 softball team.

Comparing Phalen's current hitting statistics to the 1987 season shows her improvement since the big switch.

In 1987, Phalen hit .235 and went 20 for 85 in 38 games. After 25 games this season, Phalen was hitting .368 with 28 hits in 76 at-bats. She also has a career-best 11-game hitting streak.

Before the change, the 5-foot-5 Phalen batted only right-handed. Now she can also hit left-handed.

"Beth Wedige showed me how to switch-hit," Phalen said. "She's a good hitter."

Wedige hit .444 last year with four hits in nine at-bats. This season Wedige is hitting .290 including two doubles and a triple.

Phalen is second on the team in batting average and hits. She also leads the Lady Mavs with six stolen bases in six attempts.

UNO Coach Chris Miner has been impressed with more than Phalen's hitting and base stealing.

"Amy has been our most reliable and experienced infielder," Miner said. "She is quick and has a strong arm."

Phalen's versatility has been a boost for the injury-plagued Lady Mavs. She plays third base now after beginning the year at first base.

Phalen, a 1986 Omaha Gross graduate, moved to third base when sophomore Lisa Koziol hurt her shoulder and was lost for the season.

"I had played third base during high school, so Coach Miner moved me there," Phalen said.

Phalen played for an Omaha Softball Association team called Rosie's Reb-Belles from 1981 to 1986 because Omaha high schools don't field softball teams. Phalen hit .325 for the Reb-Belles,

Phalen began her trip through the infield positions while playing for the Reb-Belles.

"When I began playing for the Reb-Belles I started at first base then I switched to third base," Phalen said. "I like the infield because it was easier. I also have played right field, but I hated it."

The sophomore third baseman also plays for an OSA team during the summer along with six of her teammates.

"I play for a team in the summer called the Transportation Specialists in the Bon Femmes League. I made the All-Star team last year," she said.

Phalen credits her sister, Michelle Phalen, a senior catcher for Missouri, for getting her involved in softball.

"Michelle has been my idol," she said. "I have played softball with her since third grade."

Phalen, an elementary education major, has played another sport besides softball.

"I played baseball on a boys team in second grade. The team was in the Central Omaha Boys League. I would try out for the baseball team at UNO, but I don't have the nerve," said Phalen.

Wedige Fires No-Hitter

UNO sophomore pitcher Beth Wedige threw a five inning no-hitter against Benedictine (Kan.) University in a 7-0 victory during the Missouri Western Invitational April 15-16.

Wedige had nine strikeouts as the Lady Mavs rapped 13 hits including a double and a triple by junior shortstop Sharon Krebs.

The Lady Mavs finished third out of 17 teams in the Missouri Western Invitational with a 4-3 record.

UNO also went 4-3 in the Northern Iowa Dome Tournament played April 8-10. Wedige earned three consecutive wins as UNO defeated St. Xavier (Illinois), Mankato State and Illinois-Chicago.

UNO has split doubleheaders with Wayne State and Augustana. They won single games by scores of 7-0 over Northwest Missouri and 2-0 over St. Mary's.

Wedige has compiled a 10-10 record so far this season while sophomore pitcher Deborah Crouse has a 9-3 record.

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BASEBALL

April 19 at Wayne State (2), 1 p.m.

April 22 South Dakota State (2), 1:30 p.m.

April 24 at South Dakota State (2), 1 p.m.

SOFTBALL

April 19 at NE Mo./NW Mo., (2), 4:30 p.m.

April 20 Creighton, (2), 6 p.m.

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